

**Claims**

1. Flooring panel or wall panel, preferably of thermosetting laminate having two pairs of parallel side edges (2, 3 and 4, 5 respectively), two of these side edges being provided with a locking means in the form of a groove (6) and the other two with a tongue (7) fitting in the groove (6) whereby a tongue/groove joint for assembling of the panels is formed, characterized in that the groove (6) and the tongue (7) are made of a water tight material and formed with a snap-together joint including one or more snapping webs or the like (9) with corresponding cooperating snapping grooves (10), that the groove (6) in front of the snap-together joint has an entrance opening (8) and inside the snap-together joint continues in a stabilizing groove (13), that the tongue (7) is formed with a rear neck (11) intended to fit in the entrance opening (8) and a forwardly protruding stabilizing part (12) situated in front of the snap-together joint and intended for a tight fit in the groove (13), whereby connecting panels (1) when assembled by the snap-together joints and the stabilizing parts (12) in the stabilizing grooves (13) are fixed to each other and prevented from unintentional separation while at the same time a rigid floor covering or wall covering respectively with water tight joints and without unintentional gaps between the panels is obtained.
2. Panel according to claim 1, characterized in that two adjacent side edges (2, 4) are provided with a groove (6) and the other two side edges (3, 5) with a tongue (7).
3. Panel according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the groove (6) and the tongue (7) are made of thermoplast, a thermosetting laminate, a chipboard or a particle board impregnated with a thermoplast, aluminum or the like.
4. Panel according to any one of claims 1-3, characterized in that the groove (6) as well as the tongue (7) are formed as a ledge fixed to the side edges of the panel.
5. Panel according to claim 4, characterized in that the ledge formed groove (6) and tongue (7) respectively are fixed in a recess along the side edges.

6. Panel according to any one of claims 1-5, characterized in that the snapping webs (9) are formed on the upper and/or the lower side of the tongue (7), while fitting snapping grooves (10) are formed in the groove (6).
7. Panel according to claim 6, characterized in that one snapping web (9) is formed on the upper side of the tongue (7) and one on the lower side thereof, while the groove (6) has two fitting snapping grooves (10) one at the top and one at the bottom.
8. Panel according to any one of claims 1-7, characterized in that the width of the stabilizing part (12) is 2-10 mm, preferably 4-10 mm.
9. Panel according to any one of claims 1-8, characterized in that the under side (14) of the groove (6) is situated in the same level as the under side (15) of the panel (1).
10. Panel according to any one of claims 1-9, characterized in that the under side (16) of the tongue (7) is situated in the same level as the under side (15) of the panel (1).
11. Panel according to any one of claims 1-10, characterized in that the inner part of the stabilizing groove (13) is provided with a seal for improvement of the water tightness.
12. Use of a panel according to any one of claims 1-11 for covering the floor and/or the walls of a wet room.
13. Use according to claim 12, characterized in that the panel is made of thermosetting laminate of so-called compact laminate type or of a non water absorbing base with a surface layer (17) consisting of paint, a thermoplastic foil, a paper sheet impregnated with thermosetting resin or of a thermosetting laminate.
14. Use according to claim 12, characterized in that the base under the surface layer consists of a board produced by pressing wood particles or wood chips impregnated with a thermoplastic.